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National characteristics are often reflected in the scientific men of different nations. This is seen in the varied manner of reception of the new candidate for scientific recognition in different countries. If he have money and proper social endorsement, our English speaking cousins receive him without question. If he have neither of these things, he is received with tail in air, the hairs of the median dorsal line elevated, a tremulous movement of the upper lip of one side; especially if he have discovered many new species. In France he is received with open arms. In Germany he is received on his merits.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Life in Ponds and Streams.¹—Considerable labor was evidently spent in compiling this collector's hand-book, which, in spite of several very bad blunders, will doubtless be of much use to the British amateur collector. Americans would prefer a hand-book dealing with the fauna of their own ponds and streams. However, the general plan of the work is a good one; the animal kingdom is briefly passed in review, directions are given for the construction of apparatus, for the construction and care of aquaria, and then the different animal groups treated somewhat in detail. Keys are given that will enable the British collector to readily identify his discoveries.

It is unfortunate that in several instances the work is marred by some very glaring blunders. A figure of a species of *Scolopendra* is given with the legend, "The centipede (*Lithobius*)". Another equally bad error occurs in the case of a figure of one of the most ordinary three lens pocket magnifiers, which is called "The Coddington lens." Further, those familiar with the group of insects and related forms will be astonished to find that the author begins with the Hemiptera and follows them with the Thysanura after saying that he will begin his enumeration of the orders with the lowest. Exception also may be taken to the use of the adjective "gellatinous" in speaking of the amceba.

Such an exhibition of carelessness or indifference considerably deters one from giving the recommendation that one might otherwise be inclined to give.—F. C. K.

¹ W. Furneaux, 12 mo., 399 pp., 311 figs., 8 pls. (colored). Langmans, Green & Co., 1896; price \$3 50.